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Potential flood risks along Cannonball River

Based upon cumulative snowfall amounts through the first couple of weeks of January, the State Water Commission recognizes the growing potential for flood risks to public safety along the Cannonball River near ND Highway 1806, to include the main Dakota Access Pipeline protest camp location.

The camp is located on low ground near the confluence of Cantapeta Creek, the Cannonball River, and the Missouri River. Potential flooding during the spring of 2017 presents a significant safety risk to people and property at that location.

According to the National Weather Service, the Bismarck-Mandan area has received 55.3 inches of snow to date, which is the highest total through Jan. 10 on record. These snowfall accumulations, along with several other factors, will impact the risk and severity of potential flooding this spring.

“There are multiple circumstances in determining possible flooding,” said State Engineer Garland Erbele. “Snowfall amounts for the remainder of this winter, the timing of spring melt, future rainfall events, and potential ice jams will all influence flows in Cantapeta Creek, the Cannonball River, and the Missouri River/Lake Oahe. We are committed to public safety and we will continue to closely monitor conditions as they evolve and develop throughout the winter months and during the spring melt.”

The National Weather Service will begin releasing its flood projections on Jan. 27.

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